

the people who help bring you Black Hole.



Yes, it's not a one man show here. There are several people who work behind the scenes to uphold the fine quality of this zine.

The man on the left was very prominent in public affairs until his recent retirement. He is the one responsible for determining the size of the tax write-off I can get for publishing this. The man in the middle held public office in several levels of government until his abrupt retirement several years ago. His experience in cash flow problems has made him an invaluable member of the staff. The man on the right is really only a part-time member of the staff, but his knowledge in foreign affairs has made his importance second to none. Of course, quality does show, and that alone should be enough to tell you that you are reading...

BLACK HOLE 27

November 1, 1975

Okay, people. Listen and listen good, because I'm not going to repeat myself. This is Black Hole, a zine published every third Saturday by Douglas Reif, 67 Grosvenor Rd., Lenmore, NY 14223. Phone numbers you can use are 716-375-4341 and 716-931-1156. Subs are \$7.00 and trades are very welcome. All names are protected by DNY PA.

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1975-76

Summer 1974

EUROPE PARALYZED BY CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE

AUSTRIA (Birsan): Has A War, A Gal, A Bud

CANADA (Rubins): Has A Stp

GERMANY (McDonough): Has A Dur, A Mar, A Par, A Pic, A Val, F Ion, F Bre, F Cly

THE NETHERLANDS (Zimmermann): Retreats A Dur-Gas Has A Gas, A Yor, F Wth, A Ruk, A Vie, A Bel, F Hol

ITALY (Papandrea): Has F Tyr, F Tun, F Ion, F Gre, A Pie, A Pri

RUSSIA (McCullin): Has A Kos, A Ukr, F Sov, A Fin

SWITZERLAND (McLendon): Has A Ser, F Aeg, A Jon, A Sev, F Bla

These are currently on file for Birsan, Rubins, McDonough, Zimmermann, Papandrea. The next deadline is going to be the second deadline following the end of the Canadian strike. Be prepared for a long wait. Read a good book or something. Ottawa said that it's prepared to wait over six months for a settlement without taking action, if you want an indication of how long this will take, try fact.

1975 34

Fall 1902

CONFUSION IN SCANDINAVIA

Following Spring 1902 moves, Italy retreated A Ven-Rom.

AUSTRIA (Zimmermann): A Tyr S F Ven, F Ven & F Gre I, A Gal-Ukr,
A Ser S F Gre Owns Bud, Gre, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie (6) Build

ENGLAND (Barents): F Ska-Den, F Hel S F Ska-Den, A Yor-Pol, F Utr
C A Yor-Hol Owns Den, Edi, Liv, Lon (4) even

FRANCE (Kovalcik): F Spa(nc)-Mid, A Bel S English A Yor-Hol,
A Pic S A Bur, A Bur S A Pic, A War-Pie, A Gas-War Owns
Bel, Bre, War, Par, Por, Spa (6) Even

GERMANY (Boniface): F Den H, A Kie S A Ruk-Hol, A Ruk-Hol, A Tun
S A Vie Owns Ber, Kie, Tun, Swe* (4) Even

ITALY (Rubins): A Rom-Ven, F Apu S A Rom-Ven, A Alb-Ser, F Ion-
Gre Owns Nap, Rom, Tun (3) Remove 1

RUSSIA (Schleicher): A Mos-Ukr, A War S A Mos-Ukr, A Ukr-Rum,
F Sev S A Ukr-Rum, F Swe-Nwy Owns Mos, Nwy, Stp, War (4)
Even

TURKEY (Smith): A Bul-Sev, F Bla & A Bul-Sev, A Arm S A Bul-Sev,
A Fun S A Bul-Sev Owns Ank, Bul, Jon, Tun, Sev, Smy (6)
Build 2

Underlined moves fail. The German F Den is dislodged and must retreat to Swe, Dal, or OTB, and the Russian F Sev is annihilated. The supply center charts assume that Germany will retreat F Den-Swe. If not, Germany will have to make a removal and Russia will get a build. Winter 1902 builds are due 7:30 PM, Thursday, November 20, 1975 and may be made conditional on the direction of the German retreat. COA--Chris Schleicher, 40 W. Apple Hill Lane, #205, Prairie View, Illinois 60069

*

1971 I

Winter 1916-Spring 1917

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO SHAVELY?

Following Fall 1916 moves, Germany built F Tie and A Ber; and Turkey built A Jon. Italy removed F Tyr

GERMANY (Wells): F Stp(nc) H, A Pru-Liv, F Bal S A Pru-Liv, A Pj-Sil, A Tun S A Ber-Sil, A Tie S A Tun (no such unit), A Rus-Sil, A Tur S A Tun, A Den-Swe, A War-Pie, A Gas-Lar, F Spa(sc)-Lyo, F Mid-Wes, F Por-Spa(sc), F Eng-Mid, F Nat-Urg, F Tie

ITALY (Smith): F Tun H

TURKEY (Phillips): A Mos S A Liv, A War & A Boh S A Sil, A Tie-Gal, A Ven S A Tus-Pie, A Tus-Pie, A Rom-Tus, F Adr-Apu, F Nap S F Ion-Tyr, F Ion-Tyr, F Eas-Ion, F Aeg S F Eas-Ion, A Con-Bul, A Liv, A Sil, A Tyr H

Underlined moves fail. The deadline for Fall 1917 move is 7:30 PM, Thursday, November 20, 1975. COA--Pan Wells, P.O. Box 117, 1st St., Waco, TX 76701.

AMERICAN PIE
by Len Cool

Chapter 101

Before fear of the growing power of France led to the unification of Spain under the Franco-phobes, Spain was dominated by the duohies of Tarragon and Bastille. Tarragon was a four-sided (hence its name) region in the rolling outer-central part of the peninsula, famous for its colorful festivals and its devastating floods, which usually coincided. The central flatlands were notoriously prone to deluges, a fact which gave rise to the popular saying, "The rain in Spain is notoriously confined to the Central Flatlands," or, more succinctly, "The coast is clear." The agri-(and solely the agri-) cultural region of Bastille was not truly a duchy at all, being constantly ravaged by coups (a solitary flightless bird which got most of the corn crop each year) and upheavals (a kind of grub which made their nests in the cotton crop). The real power was in the hands of the grandees and the baronets. The grandees wore lace cuffs and carried bullwhips, to discourage the ferocious bulls which stalked the land, while similarly the baronets were used to catch bears. The Bastillians actually preferred this form of government to that of Tarragon, saying, "It beats the Duchy!" The time had not yet come when invasions of Franks from the north, Moors from the south, Huns from the east, Vikings from the west, Martians from overhead, and Goblins from down below would unite these two great realms into one mediocre one.

Tarragon attained the height of its power under Carrambas, the thirteenth duke, whose glory and splendor remain a legend even today--not in Spain, but in Transylvania where such legends abound. Carrambas inhabited a magnificent palace with costly treasures, works of art, lurid tapestries, a two-coach garage, storm drains with a one-year warranty, and a live dwarf on the front lawn.

But was he happy?

"Oh there you are," shouted Sirena Sardina Sotreta de Santa Serna y Saoacorcho, Grand Duchess of Tarragon. "I've been looking all over the palace for you. The Countess of Corona-Corona has invited us over for cocktails and Dutch Pedro tonight, and we're definitely going. I hope you remembered to pick up your tuxedo from the cleaners."

The Duke emerged reluctantly from behind a statue of Zeus holding an umbrella. "I was looking forward to a quiet evening of flogging peasants."

"The peasants can wait, that's all," the Duchess replied. "Be dressed by 7:30. And for heaven's sake try to control your temper this time and not set fire to the Count's beard."

The Duke answered unrepentantly, "I had a royal gazebo and he scrawled it." He sat down abruptly next to a statue of Artemis playing the bagpipes.

"Now, how can I put him into a good humor?" said the Duchess to herself. "I have it!" She flounced out of the room in a rustle of silk, leaving the Duke leaning against a statue of Hephaestus ((ever))

A few minutes later a small figure in a clown suit appeared. "Sombrero the Jester, Sire," he said. "Her Grace sent me."

"Who?"

"I mean, the Duchess."

"Oh." The Duke looked grave. "Tell me some japes or conundrums."

"Some what?"

"Jokes and riddles!"

"Oh." The jester thought, then inquired brightly, "What is found in rivers, goes creak, creak, and eats hay?"

The Duke was rather weak at riddles. After half an hour he said, "I give up."

"A haunted hippopotamus!"

"I don't get it," said the Duke.

"I don't get it either," said Isfahani to himself. "That is not an authentic hippopotamus joke! The Tsar must have a hand in this." Silently he reached for another handful of pistachios.

* * *

Left to himself, the Duke was standing beside a painting of Dionysius raping the Furies. Very softly, in an uneven voice, he murmured:

"I must have Poland!"

The Duchess was saying, "Sometimes I believe my husband will never amount to anything at all! He has no more backbone than a---"

"Jellyfish?" suggested Sombrero.

ON THE NEUROBIOLOGY AND ENDOCRINOLOGY OF SOME PREHISTORIC COELENTERATES¹

by Melanogaster J. Spigot, Ph.D.

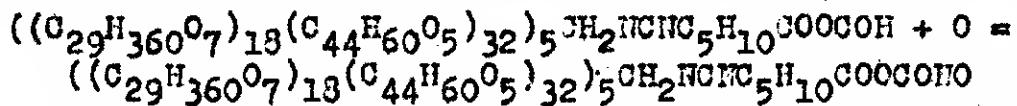
Part VIII

The central nervous system of Graposaurus welchi, the Neso-zoic precursor of the jellyfish of today, has been made the object of an exhaustive study by Marmot,² in which he shows that a nervous impulse took on the average of thirty-six and a half years to pass from the epidermis to the brain. From this research we may draw several conclusions:

- (1) It was no fun trying to give Grapesaurus a hot-foot.
- (2) Graposaures made rather dull pets.
- (3) In the role of predator, the Graposaurus was at a distinct disadvantage against almost any prey.

In this connection, we cannot avoid mentioning the experimental work of Sandwich and Milkowski, who over a period of approximately eight years attempted to teach a jellyfish to talk.³ During this period the experimenters claimed to have taught the subject over 500 phrases, ranging from single words like "toast" and "peanut butter" to complex sentences like "Electronic media reconfigure the universe in the image of a global village." Unfortunately, the whole of this work has since been discredited, and the experimenters sent to prison. The jellyfish persuaded the jury to let it off with a fine, and is now the star of a successful cartoon show.

The key chemical agent in the nervous reactions of G. welchi appears to have been dextro-iso-ortho-cyclo-1,1-methyl-1,2-pare-alpha-1,3-chloro-fluoro-butyl-mutylene, which reacts with oxygen according to the formula:



The resulting compound, in its pure form, is remarkable for having no chemical properties.

NEXT: The Digestive System at Work and Play

¹ Supported by National Coelenterate Foundation Grant J-666

² J. Abstr. Zool., 2, 111-148

³ Izv. Akad. nauk Dzhelish, 23, 18-287

*

Calendar on the Wall

November 23: World Monopoly Championship, New York, N. Y. Plenty of wheeling and dealing. Winner takes home the Charles B. Barrow Cup, named for the game's inventor. A triumph of capitalism.

*

Macho Macho Dept.

Eliseo Garcia Victorino and Pedro Morales concluded after a few tequilas in a bar that they should go home and beat their wives to demonstrate that "International Women's Year is inoperative." They decided that if either one backed out of administering the beatings, he would have to pay for a week of drinks and sign a document praising International Women's Year and admitting he was no longer muy Macho (a he-man).

Eliseo stumbled home at dawn, tore the crossbar off the door, and set upon his wife, Gloria, while Pedro picked up a frying pan and threw it at his spouse, Maria. Neighbors, awakened by the women's screams, called the police. Both men ended up in adjoining jail cells. Who won the barroom wager?

"It was an honorable draw," the two bricklayers answered almost in unison. Buffalo Evening News October 23

*

A very neat (offset?) zine that has been coming my way is Vicarion, published by Chatham Arts, 12 Commerce St., Chatham, NJ 07923. This zine caters primarily to the wargamer and historian, featuring scenarios for games and tidbits of history here and there. Subs are 30¢/issue. There are game openings in Diplomacy for \$3.50 and Chariot, Spartan, Legion, Viking, Yeoman, Musket & Pike, and Starforce for \$5. Subs are included, I imagine.

Unequal Rights Amendment Dept.

An Oklahoma divorce law that recently took effect gives a wife all of a couple's property, even hubby's socks and pipe. "I sure as heck didn't mean to give all my cows to my wife in the unlikely event of a divorce," said State Sen. John Young, a country lawyer who started the idea. He said he just wanted a woman to have the right to regain her maiden name after a divorce. He said the intent was to make Oklahoma's divorce law in accord with the Equal Rights Amendment, "where everybody starts even in a divorce court." Opponents claim it will result in chaos if the state supreme court doesn't declare it unconstitutional. Gov. David Boren was asked by a coauthor of the law to call a special session of the legislature to repeal it. Boren said he would wait for a legal opinion.

Young's 250 word measure was passed without close scrutiny in the closing hours of the 1975 legislature. The giveaway to the ladies was on the front page. "When a divorce shall be granted, the wife shall be restored to her maiden name if she so desires, and also to all the property, lands, tenements, hereditaments owned by either party before marriage or acquired by either party in their own right after such marriage and not previously disposed of," the bill states.

Boren signed the bill on June 12, but nobody discovered what it really said until September. "I think there is a strong possibility of a constitutional defect which would keep the bill from taking effect," said Boren, a former professor of constitutional law at Oklahoma Baptist University.

The first legal test came in a suit filed by Mrs. Johnita Sue Caywood of Norman, Okla., who is seeking all of the property of her husband, Robert Monroe Caywood Jr. A state judge declared the law unconstitutional at a pretrial hearing. Until the court rules, the Caywoods' attorneys said, "Chaotic conditions will prevail in the trial courts, leaving the disposition and division of property of litigants in divorce cases in a state of uncertainty."

Now the bill became law has evoked almost as much interest as its wording. Rep. L. H. Bengston Jr. joined Young as House author for the measure but since has asked the governor to call a special session to repeal it. Sen. Gene Stipe said he agreed to be a coauthor because "it sounded like a good deal. It was supposed to treat husband and wife alike. I didn't read it. As a matter of fact there were about 50 of us senators plus 100 House members that should have read it." (Ed. note--The law has been declared unconstitutional. I guess Oklahoma won't become the divorce mecca of America.))

I've got room for just one more little plug. Adam Gruen puts out an interesting new zine called Dynasty. It features game reviews plus an ad section where you can seek wargaming opponents, sell games, write nasty personal notes or whatever your little heart desires (for a price). Subs run for \$2.50 per year which covers 12 issues. Adam lives at 470 North St., Harrison, NY 10523.